

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

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O 031125Z AUG 76 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3710

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 5643

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR GH US KS PORG

SUB: GHANA'S CHANGING KOREAN POSITION

REF: A. STATE 181798, (NOTAL), B. ACCRA 0212 (NOTAL),
C. 75 ACCRA 7718 (NOTAL), D. 75 ACCRA 7211 (NOTAL),

1. SUMMARY. WHILE CALLING ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SENIOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY ERIC OTOO ON ANOTHER MATTER ON AUGUST 2, HE TOLD ME THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER COL. R.J.A. FELLI HAD INSTRUCTED THE MINISTRY TO "MODERATE" OR TO "SEEK A WAY OF MODERATING" GHANA'S POSITION ON KOREA. IT WAS NOT CLEAR, SINCE HE USED BOTH PHRASES, EXACTLY WHAT FELLI WANTED BUT IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT FELLI DOES NOT FEEL TIED TO THE POSITION OF CO-SPONSORING THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION ON KOREA WHICH HIS PREDECESSOR, COL BAAH, HAD INITIATED.

2. I HAD CALLED ON OTOO ON INSTRUCTIONS TO DISCUSS ANOTHER
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MATTER. FOLLOWING THAT DISCUSSION I REFERRED TO OTOO'S

FORTHCOMING DEPARTURE FOR THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS AND ASKED HIM HOW HE SAW THINGS SHAPING UP. HE SIGHED AND SAID THAT THE AGENDA WAS VERY LONG AND THAT INSPITE OF EFFORTS TO EMPHASIZE ECONOMIC MATTERS THE SAME OLD POLITICAL PROBLEMS WOULD BE COMING UP; FOR INSTANCE, KOREA. I SAID THAT HE SURELY KNEW OUR CONCERNS ON KOREA VERY WELL.

3. OTOO'S RESPONSE SURPRISED ME FOR TWO REASONS, FIRST BECAUSE HE, NORMALLY RETICENT AND QUIET, WAS VERY VOLUBLE AND, SECOND, BECAUSE HE INDICATED THAT FELLI WISHES TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE GOG'S PREVIOUS POSITON. BEFORE REACHING THE LATTER POINT OTOO WENT ON AT UNUSUAL LENGTH EXPLAINING GHANA'S NEED TO PLAY A GROUP ROLE (E.E., BE AN ACTIVIST IN NON-ALIGNED CIRCLES) AND CHIDING ME FOR THE US "OVER-REACTION" LAST YEAR. HE SAID AMERICANS OUGHT TO UNDERSTAND (PREACHING SEEMS TO BE A NATIONAL HABIT IN GHANA) GHANA'S NEED AS A SMALL NATION TO BE A PART OF A GROUP. HE ADDED THAT WHILE THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES FELT THAT THE US SHOULD NOT CONTINUE TO KEEP TROOPS IN KOREA, GHANA'S ROLE SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD AS ONE OF A GROUP AND NOT AS A COUNTRY IN OPPOSITION TO BE THE UNITED STATES. HE NOTED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED RHETORIC IS JUST TALK IN ANY EVENT AND THAT GHANA WOULD NEVER TAKE AN ACTION DIRECTLY DAMAGING TO THE U.S.

4. I POINTED OUT THAT WE SAW NO SENSE AT ALL IN APPROACHING THE KOREAN QUESTION WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SOUTH KOREA. I ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MADE CLEAR IN SEATTLE THAT THE USG WISHED TO BE COMPLETELY CONSTRUCTIVE IN REACHING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. I ALSO SUGGESTED THAT FROM HIS OWN KNOWLEDGE OF THE US HE SHOULD BE AWARE THAT PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION WOULD NOT MAKE ANY DISTINCTION BETWEEN GHANA'S ACTIVITIES AS A PART OF THE NON-ALIGNED GROUP AND ITS PRIVATE ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION DIRECTLY DAMAGING TO THE US. I NOTED THAT KOREA IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO THE USG, WAS SO UNDERSTOOD BY THE CONGRESS AND THE PUBLIC AND ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF WHAT APPEARED TO US TO BE ILLOGICAL AND ANTI-US MOVES COULD NOT EXCAPE UNNOTICED. OTOO PUSHED THIS ASIDE WITH A REMARK THAT WHILE HE RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC OPINION IN DEMO-
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CRACIES AS OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENTS ABLE TO DICTATE POLICY WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE PUBLIC, IT WAS UP TO THE USG TO LEAD PUBLIC OPINION.

5. AT THAT POINT HE INDICATED THAT COL. FELLI DID NOT FEEL BOUND TO HIS PREDECESSOR'S POSITION IN CO-SPONSORING THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND THAT HE HAD, AS HE HAD ADVISED THE SECRETARY LAST YEAR, INSTRUCTED GHANA'S DELEGATION

TO ABSTAIN ON THE VOTE IN NEW YORK. UNFORTUNATELY HIS INSTRUCTIONS HAD NOT REACHED THE DELEGATION IN TIME. HE HAS NOW INSTRUCTED THE MINISTRY TO "MODERATE" GHANA'S POSITION. OTOO ADDED THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO WORK WITH FELLOW MODERATES

AT COLOMBO TOWARDS A MORE POSITIVE RESOLUTION ON KOREA BUT HE ADDED THAT COUNTRIES LIKE GHANA HAD TO BE VERY CAREFUL IN MAKING SUCH MOVES IN ORDER TO AVOID BEING ATTACKED AS "DUPES OF THE CIA". HE SAID FELLI HAD ASKED OTOO AND HIS COLLEAGUES "TO SEEK A WAY OF MODERATING" GHANA'S POSITION ON KOREA AND HE, OTOO, HOPED THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. I SAID THAT THE US WOULD WELCOME ANY CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE.

6. COMMENT: WHATEVER OTOO MAY SAY ABOUT US OVER-REACTION LAST YEAR, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT FELLI GOT OUR MESSAGE AND IS ANXIOUS TO BREAK AWAY FROM AN EXPOSED POSITION. IT WOULD SEEM USEFUL TO ADVISE APPROPRIATE NON-ALIGNED MODERATES THAT GHANA APPEARS WILLING TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE RESOLUTION ON KOREA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ACCRA05643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760298-0978
From: ACCRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760894/aaaadeob.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 181798, 76 ACCRA 212, 75 ACCRA 7718, 75 ACCRA 7211
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 MAR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHANA'S CHANGING KOREAN POSITION
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, GH, US, KS, KN, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006